

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-16 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art fairly teaches or suggest a method of transporting an emulsion explosive down a vertical conduit, said method comprising a means for dissipating potential energy released by the emulsion explosive as it is transported down the conduit so that turbulence is reduced to avoid breakdown of the emulsion and/or changes in viscosity and/or changes in droplet size of the emulsion. It is noted that the prior art does teach the use of energy dissipation means, however, these means are then used to further manipulate the emulsion changing its properties. Based on the above the instant invention is seen as novel and non-obvious over the prior art, and as such is deemed patentable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES E. MCDONOUGH whose telephone number is (571)272-6398. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on (571)272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J.A. LORENZO/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1793

/James E McDonough/
Examiner, Art Unit 1793